GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1835
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003
CHARTER OF DEMAND BY FISHERMAN COMMUNITY
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fisherman community have submitted a charter of demand to the Government last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether their demands have not been fulfilled;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to redress their grievances?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a)to(e): Yes, Sir. A charter of demands has been received from the Fishermen organisations relating to various problems in carrying out fishing operations. The demands have been examined in consultation with the concerned agencies and appropriate steps have been taken on major issues as stated in the Annexure.

ANNEXURE

Sl. No.	Demands	Action Taken
1.	Supply of diesel to fishermen	A Fishermen Development Rebate on high speed diesel oil has been proposed in the 10th Five year Plan scheme.
2.	Enhancement of Kerosene quota to traditional fishermen	The fishermen organisation has been asked to furnish state-wise information regarding the additional requirement of kerosene for fishing purposes.
3.	Saving Cum Relief Scheme for fisherwomen	Fisherwomen and inland fishers are already covered in the Saving-cum-Relief component of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National Welfare of Fishermen.
4.	Withdraw Aquaculture Authority Bill	Aquaculture Authority Bill, 2000 already introduced in the Rajya Sabha in February, 2000 is to take care of the issue arising from the judgement of Supreme Court relating to coastal aquaculture.
5.	Release of Indian Fishermen and their boats	The matter has been taken up with the Ministry of External Affairs to sort out the problem for early release of fishermen and their boats.
6.	Uniform ban on trawling during monsoon	Ban on trawling during monsoon period has been decided in consultation with the coastal States.
7	Sea Safety Measures during fishing	Sea safety measures are already in operation under the relevant provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act. The Coast Guard is also assisting fishermen in times of distress.
8.	Check on poaching by foreign fishing vessels	The Indian Coast Guard is entrusted with the responsibility of the guarding our maritime zones and to prevent poaching by foreign fishing vessels.
9.	Import of fish into the country	The present import of fish is very negligible mainly for hotel sector and re-export for value addition.
10.	Development of infrastructure for fishing and post harvest facilities	A scheme is under implementation for construction of fishing harbours, fish landing centres.
11.	Lift ban on sharks and rays	Only the selected species of sharks and rays have been banned, which are considered as endangered species.
12.	Implementation of coastal regulation zone for construction of dwelling houses by fishermen people.	The CRZ notification has been issued by the Ministry of Environment & Forests and the regulations are (CRZ) notification removing the impediment enforced as per the provisions of this Notification.
13.	Aquatic Reforms in the country.	The matter is within the jurisdiction of the State Governments.
14.	Retention of rights of fishermen for transient fishing and fish drying.	The matter has been taken up by the Government of WestBengal with the Ministry of Environment & in Jambu Island (West Bengal) Forests.